A Guide to Planning Your Legacy

Your Legacy Is Our Future

Ratargul Swamp Forest, Bangladesh by Nawas Sharif, CC BY-SA 4.0

WIKIMEDIA

ENDOWMENT

Your free knowledge legacy

Your legacy is a lasting statement about what's important to you and how you'd like to be remembered. When you make the Wikimedia Endowment part of your legacy, you're making a powerful statement that access to free knowledge for all is essential. You're standing up to protect the fundamental right to freedom of information, the innovative ways in which it's curated and delivered, and the hundreds of thousands of worldwide volunteers who share their knowledge and edit articles every day.

Computer Basics and Applications Lab by Melwinsy, CC BY-SA 4.0

A gift in your will or by beneficiary designation helps ensure that Wikipedia will flourish long into the future and is the best way to create a legacy of increasing knowledge around the world.

When to consider a gift for the future

There's no better time than the present to plan your legacy. No matter your age or income level, including a gift to the Wikimedia Endowment in your will or by beneficiary designation is simple and costs you nothing now. Gifts can come in all sizes, either as a stipulated amount or as a percentage of your assets. You can always make adjustments to your plans if you change your mind or if your financial circumstances change.

You can have the peace of mind that comes with taking care of your loved ones while also supporting the causes you care about.

> *"I've been an annual donor to Wikipedia, but I also wanted to make a gift that could have a long-lasting impact That's why I made Wikipedia a partial beneficiary of my life insurance policy and retirement accounts."*
>
> *—Adam M.*

Your gift makes you the latest member of the Wikipedia Legacy Society, joining a group of like-minded supporters who have made a commitment to the future. We look forward to welcoming you!

How to make your gift

LEAVING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

Anyone in the world can make a gift to the Wikimedia Endowment. If you're ready to leave a gift in your will, we have provided sample language for you to include:

I give, devise, and bequeath [the sum of _____ USD (or other currency) OR _____ percent of the rest and residue of my estate] to the Wikimedia Endowment (tax identification number 87-3024488), a charitable corporation currently located at One Sansome Street, Suite 1895, San Francisco, California, 94104, United States, to be used for its general charitable purposes at its discretion.

LEAVING A GIFT BY BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION

Do you have an IRA, 401k, life insurance policy, or other savings account? You can use any of these to leave a gift without paying anything today. It's as easy as contacting your financial institution and naming the Wikimedia Endowment as your beneficiary.

> *I use Wikipedia all the time, and I've seen how much my children and friends rely on it, too. I want to know that I played a part in securing the future of this incredible resource. Leaving Wikipedia a gift in my will was reassuring: I'll keep supporting Wikipedia for years to come!*
>
> *—Sophie B.*

FreeWill

For readers with U.S.-based assets who don't yet have a will, we've partnered with FreeWill.com to offer you a free and easy tool to help you create one online in as little as 20 minutes. To get started, visit freewill.com/wikipedia.

FREEWILL

> *Free knowledge is a powerful tool, ever becoming more meaningful in a society that has difficulty telling the difference between fact and fiction. I hope this gift serves the quest for knowledge, helps those seeking it, and helps to give opportunity where it may otherwise have not been possible without freely available knowledge sources.*
>
> *—Robert F.*

Become a “forever donor”

Adding your name to the Wikipedia Legacy Society means that your generosity will benefit readers like you for generations to come.

Making the Wikimedia Endowment part of your legacy is a gift that keeps on giving. If you currently make annual contributions to Wikimedia and want to maintain the same impact in perpetuity, simply multiply your annual contribution by twenty.

Wondering how large to make your legacy gift? We’ve provided this formula to help you envision your impact for years to come.

_____ X 20 = _____

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION | **LEGACY AMOUNT**

Share your plans

If you’ve included us in your estate plan, please email legacy@wikimedia.org and let us know. We would love to welcome you into our Wikipedia Legacy Society.

Opening of the Wikimania 2014 Hackathon at the Barbican in London, by Sebastiaan ter Burg, CC BY 2.0

The Endowment at work

The Wikimedia Endowment protects against the unknowns of an ever-changing world. Gifts to the Endowment are invested so that they can grow over time. This funding provides critical and reliable support to ensure Wikipedia and other Wikimedia projects remain freely accessible and ad-free, for generations to come. It also allows us to focus on enhancing cybersecurity, combating disinformation, and improving sustainability. Your gift to the Endowment will ensure that Wikipedia can rise to any challenge and continue to provide free knowledge to future generations.

Need some help?

If you would like further assistance with leaving a gift in your will or by beneficiary designation, contact Jason Adams at the Wikimedia Endowment by writing to legacy@wikimedia.org. We’re glad to help!

The information provided in this guide does not constitute specific financial, legal or tax advice. Please consult your attorneys and/or financial advisors regarding your particular situation.